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Message Text

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20
ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 ACDA-05 /077 W
---------- 045628
P R 061023Z MAR 75
FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9492
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
USCINCEUR
COMIDEASTFOR

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 0543

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, MILI, SU
SUBJECT: ARMY UNIT MUTINY IN SOUTH SUDAN

1. FROM VARIETY SOURCES OVER PAST FEW DAYS, EMBASSY HAS LEARNED OF MUTINY ONE BATTALION SUDANESE TROOPS STATIONED AT AKOBO ON SOBAT RIVER AT ETHIOPIAN FRONTIER AND AT NASIR, NORTH AKOBO ON SOBAT. MUTINY SEEMS TO HAVE OCCURRED MARCH 1, AS AMBASSADOR LEARNED IN JUBA MARCH 2 OF "SHOOTING" AT AKOBO AND SAW ARMORED CARS TAKE UP POSITIONS AROUND JUBA AIRSTRIP.

2. MUTINY REPORTEDLY TIMED BOTH TO INDICATE OPPOSITION TO UNITY WITH NORTH (ANNIVERSARY OF WHICH CELEBRATED IN WAU MARCH 3) AND BECAUSE THAT WAS DAY BATTALION'S ONE NORTHERN COMPANY WAS BEING ROTATED. BATTALION'S OTHER THREE COMPANIES FORMERLY WERE SOUTHERN ANYANYA GUERRILAS WHO OPPOSED TO FULLSCALE INTEGRATION INTO ARMY. BATTALION COMMANDER, A SOUTHERNER NAMED COL. ABEL, REPORTEDLY WAS SHOT AND OTHER OFFICERS ARE BEING
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HELD HOSTAGE. GENERAL JOSEPH LAGU, GOC SOUTHER

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COMMAND AND HIMSELF A FORMER ANYANYA LEADER, SAID TO HAVE RUSHED FROM WAU TO AKOBO MARCH 4 TO NEGOTIATE WITH MUTUNEERS. HOWEVER, MILITARY PRECAUTIONS ALSO BEING TAKEN, INCLUDING SHIPMENT TANKS FROM KHARTOUM BY RAIL MARCH 5.

3. COMMENT: OUTBREAK APPEARS CLEARLY MOST RECENT MANIFESTATION OF CONTINUING ANYANYA SUSPICION NOT ONLY OF NORTHERN-DOMINATED SUDANESE ARMY BUT ALSO OF THE FEW SENIOR SOUTHERNERS WHO HAVE COMMANDS IN IT. LAGU HAS BEEN CRITICIZED AS TURNCOAT AND ABEL SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN SHOT FOR MUCH THE SAME REASON. THERE HAS BEEN NO PUBLICITY RE MUTINY AND GOS EVIDENTLY PROCEEDING CAUTIOUSLY IN HANDLING WHOLE AFFAIR, NO DOUBT IN EFFORT AVOID DIRECT MILITARY CONFRONTATION. IF THIS ATTEMPT SUCCESSFUL, MUTINY MAY HAVE NO SIGNIFICANT REPERCUSSIONS. AS FAR AS WE AWARE, IT HAD NO OUTSIDE STIMULUS AND IS IN NO WAY RELATED TO CURRENT TENSIONS IN NEIGHBORING ETHIOPIA. NO AMERICANS BELIEVED IN AFFECTED AREA.
BREWER

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